

**Draft: EPA Responses to GAC Ltr., 5/07/2015**

<b><i>Charge Question #1: CEC Draft Operational Plan 2015-16</i></b>	1. A more detailed breakdown of the Operational Plan budget should be provided in the future, especially in areas where advice is sought.	
	2. Project proposers should be required to offer clear, specific and measureable metrics to assess the outcomes of projects (“specific, clear and tangible results”) and not merely their products, deliverables or outputs.	
	3. The \$600,000 requested by the Monarch butterfly project proponents (projects 12 and 13) should be redirected to other priorities until the regulatory uncertainty surrounding glyphosate is resolved. If the CEC desires to invest in a response to the threatened loss of the Monarch in the meantime, the GAC recommends funding be applied to grants or projects aimed at encouraging planting milkweed in critical migratory path areas that are not subject to herbicide use.	
<b><i>Charge Question #2: NAPECA Grants</i></b>	1. The NAPECA invitation should provide better guidance regarding the projects sought. At a minimum the invitations	

	should describe a range of grant award amounts that place upper and lower limits on awards.	
	2. The first and essential screen for fundable projects should always be the quality of the projects and the degree to which they meet the Administration and Funding Guidelines and Grant Selection Criteria.	
	3. The list of priority applicants/beneficiaries should include 'vulnerable communities.'	
	4. The Selection Criteria should mention a preference for projects that are 'replicable' in addition to "... environmentally significant for the community and for North America."	
	5. Preference should also be given to projects for which other funding sources are limited or nonexistent.	
	6. A limited number of 'first funder' applications should be sought and funded in each round.	
	7. First funders and small, thinly resourced organizations should have the ability to 'mentor' with universities or larger organizations to help support the administrative requirements of the program	

	8. Special efforts to publicize this program and to seek applications from indigenous communities should include the use of radio, such as the syndicated "Native America Calling" program.	
	9. Applications from indigenous communities should demonstrate a strong partnership with the community and its leadership.	
<b><i>Charge Question #3: Communications</i></b>	<p>1. The Secretariat should seek greater opportunities to use social media as a means of increasing awareness and improving communications.</p> <p>2. EPA should establish a set of social media connections for use by the committees and their members.</p>	
<b><i>Article 13 Rpt. On Hydraulic Fracturing</i></b>	1. The GAC joins the NAC in recommending that the U.S. propose an Article 13 report on the environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing technology.	
<b><i>Community Reaction to Renewable Energy Development</i></b>	1. The U.S. Government should propose a CEC study on the attitudes and concerns of residents and community leaders at various times following completion of a renewable energy generation project.	
<b><i>Oil Trains Briefing</i></b>	The GAC members are hearing a great deal of concern about the "oil trains" but are not sufficiently versed in the subject to offer	

	any comment or recommendations at this time. We respectfully request that a briefing on the subject be part of a future meeting agenda.	
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